



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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FINAL FRAMEWORKS FOR 1989-90 WATERFOWL SEASON ISSUED

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued final frameworks for the upcoming waterfowl hunting season. In general, the duck hunting regulations are similar to those of last year and continue restrictions aimed at increasing duck populations. However, some goose hunting seasons have been liberalized. The individual states will select their waterfowl hunting season dates and bag limits from these final frameworks.

"Waterfowl breeding habitat was in poor shape again this year and waterfowl populations remain low," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director John Turner. "In light of this, the final frameworks continue restrictions made in 1985 after duck populations fell to the lowest level ever recorded."

For ducks, the proposed bag limits, season lengths, hunting zones, and split seasons remain much the same as last year. However, shooting hour restrictions imposed last year were changed to permit shooting to begin at the traditional one-half hour before sunrise.

Another change in the duck hunting frameworks allows states in the Mississippi and Central Flyways to select a conservative point system in lieu of conventional bag limits, an option not offered last year. The point system is at least as restrictive as the conventional bag limit.

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The frameworks also allow for a season for canvasback ducks in the Pacific Flyway only, with a one-bird limit. The canvasback season will remain closed in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways.

For geese, the frameworks include an increase in the aggregate bag limit for Canada, white-fronted, and snow geese from five to seven birds in the Mississippi Flyway. Restrictions include two whitefronts (same as last year) and three Canadas (two last year). In the Atlantic Flyway, the bag limit for snow geese increased to five per day with ten in possession (four and eight last year). In the Central Flyway, the midcontinent snow goose season was extended from 86 to 100 days.

In Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia (except Back Bay), the Canada goose season is shortened from 70 to 60 days, and the season will end no later than January 20, rather than January 31 as permitted last year. This Canada goose population has declined for 3 consecutive years and experienced poor production this summer.

Waterfowlers planning hunts for this fall are urged to contact the wildlife agency of the state in which they will be hunting to obtain information on the actual season dates and bag limits selected.

The final late season frameworks were published in the Federal Register on September 19, 1989. The state selections appeared in that publication on September 28, 1989.